

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and then allowance.

Amended claim 1 finds basis in the specification at page 24, lines 8-15.

Applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation rejection of claims 1-5 and 20 over the Green et al. reference (U.S. Patent No.4,416,975).

The compound (A) disclosed in Green et al is a monomer, and thus the cured product, e.g., the polymer thereof does not contain any (meth)acryloyl group since the(meth)acryloyl group is consumed upon curing.

On the other hand, the polymer which constitutes the present composition is a polymer which possesses both maleimido group and ethylenically-unsaturated group (including (meth)acryloyl group) and has a number average molecular weight of 1,000 or more. Further, the compounds (A) disclosed in the working examples of Green et al are less than 1,000 in molecular weight. Thus, the present polymer is novel and unobvious over the Green et al. reference.

Applicants traverse the anticipation rejection of claims 1-7 and 20 over Okazaki et al (WO98/58912).

The compound (1) disclosed in Okazaki et al. is not a polymer but a monomer that has a molecular weight of less than 1,000. The composition may contain not only the compound (1) but also other (meth)acrylate monomers or oligomers. However, the monomers and oligomers disclosed in Okazaki et al have only an ethylenically-unsaturated group, but do not have any maleimido group. Thus, it is apparent that the resultant polymer of Okazaki et al is not the same as the present polymer.

Okazaki et al. disclose polymers having maleimido groups, although this was not pointed out by Examiner. However, Applicants observe that the polymers disclosed in Okazaki et al are those which contain only maleimido group, and Okazaki et al do not disclose any polymer which contains both maleimido group and ethylenically-unsaturated group.

The advantages resulting from use of the polymer with both maleimido group and ethylenically-unsaturated group according to the present invention are clearly understood from the comparison between Examples and Comparative Examples of the present specification.

The compositions of Examples 1-1 through 1-8 were excellent in curability, durability, abrasion resistance, adhesion and odor. The Examiner's attention is respectfully invited to page 54, Table 1-3 of the present specification. On the other hand, the composition of Comparative Examples 1-1 which contained the polymer C1-1 having maleimido group but no ethylenically-unsaturated group was half or less in curability than the Examples, and was also deteriorated in abrasion resistance. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 55, Table 1-4.

From the above, Okazaki et al. do not disclose the present polymer, and the present claimed inventions are novel over the Okazaki et al. reference.

U.S. Appln. No. 09.883,406 - OKAZAKI et al.

Having responded to all matters, Applicants respectfully solicit an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Amendments to the existing claims:

1. A crosslinkable resin composition, comprising (A) a polymer that [which] contains a maleimido group and an ethylenically unsaturated group, said polymer having a number average molecular weight of 1,000 or more.

New claim 26 has been added.